

From: Embery, Nathan
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 10:00am
Subject: Microsoft antitrust Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I believe it to be sufficiently proven that Microsoft has broken the law. I also believe that no stretch of the imagination is required to believe that Microsoft will break the same laws again. It would be a most egregious mistake to simply dismiss this fact.

I assure you that Microsoft's anticipative, monopolist practices will only continue. This is already evidenced by the recent pricing initiative taken by Microsoft. Apparently they are moving to a model where they can force upgrades at their discretion. This would force nearly *every* business in the *world* to pay several hundred to several million dollars to Microsoft every two years. Actually, at any time MS chooses. This would surely never happen if there were at least one alternative software company. This is elementary economics. Monopolies are *not* good.

The problem is: there is no alternative. No small startup, not even a company like Sun Microsystems, can compete. Because of the propriety file formats MS employs, once a company uses MS Office, they are forced to stay with, or recreate every document they have. That alone, will keep MS in business for quite some time. This is only one example. The list goes on and on. Take .NET, the CIFS protocol, the Kerberos protocol, OEM licensing restrictions, non disclosure of 'hidden' API's.

I urge you, as a taxpaying citizen, to look at this matter very closely. Any reasonable person can see the illegality of these actions. A punishment fitting the crime is absolutely required. Please don't give anyone the impression you were bought off. I assure you, anything less than harsh, will be viewed in exactly this way.

thank you for your time,

Nathan Embery

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